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25X1A MEMORANDUM FOR:

Assistant to the Director

SUBJECT : Newsletter for Senior CIA Representatives

The following item is submitted by the Office of the Deputy Director (Administration) for inclusion in the November Newsletter to the Senior Representatives:

PART I

25X1A

A previously reliable informant gave what proved to be a deliberately false tip to a representative of the Contact Division Office. He later gave the same information to the FBI and then admitted it was false. The Department of Justice brought a criminal prosecution for giving false information to the CIA and the FBI. Two CIA employees were called as witnesses, but were ordered by the Director not to testify against the former informant in order to comply with the Director's responsibility to protect intelligence sources and methods. Accordingly, the witnesses refused to testify on the stand, and the Agency asserted that this refusal was based on the Agency's privilege to withhold confidential information. The Court would not accept this position and directed the witnesses to answer. They again refused and were held in contempt of Court and given fifteen days' sentence apiece. They are now free on bail pending an appeal. This is the first Court test of the Agency's right to protect information it considers confidential from disclosure by Court order. Therefore, the appeal becomes important. Meanwhile, the relation of the Contact Branch to its confidential sources has been protected by the refusal to testify. Every effort will be made to insure that the CIA employees involved are not punished for carrying out their orders to protect Agency interests, even to the point of requesting that they be pardoned if that becomes necessary.

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VOID

SA/DD/A:RSW:jeb  
 cc: ADD/A chrono  
 ADD/A subject "Admin - Newsletter"

Special Assistant to  
 Deputy Director  
 (Administration)

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